

February 4, 2015

Please add my support to 5096.

As a real estate broker, I see and feel the damage that the burden of taxes has placed on property values, middle class wealth and small business operations.

Unlike many areas of the country, Connecticut residents have not enjoyed an economic recovery and are hurting. Middle class residents who can leave, are leaving the State. Retirees, many with fat State pensions in hand, are moving to states that do not tax social security. States without income tax and sales tax are growing economically while our economy is flat and dependent upon government jobs.

A bill requiring a two-thirds majority vote of both chambers in order to pass any new or expanded unfunded mandates is a step in the right direction and demonstrates your willingness to seriously analyze the impact of spending.

Programs, like Common Core which was adopted circumventing the legislature, should be repealed, immediately. The program is unconstitutional, will double the cost of education, is unfunded, will not help our children and is an invasion of privacy.

How could the Governor be allowed to double the cost of education in a state that was leading the majority of the country in achievement without any public debate or legislative oversight?

The fiscal impact that Common Core, alone, will have on every town and city in the State, is unconscionable, all in the name of corporate profits, government controls and at the expense of liberty and the education and welfare of our children.

Furthermore, all government loans and grants in the name of corporate welfare in the name of jobs must stop. The list of companies that have received our hard earned taxpayer money and have either not created the jobs promised or that have had zero impact on our economy, is already long enough.

If the State wants economic development and jobs it could easily cut taxes and lower the cost of doing business. Instead politicians play with our money

and pad the wallets of influential political friends. The well-publicized political back slapping events are nothing more than celebrations among thieves, are they not? What pride is there in redistributing our money? Grants and 'business by government loan' economies are failed economies, and nothing to celebrate.

Even worse, after cashing the check, these business owners more often than not, go bankrupt anyway, close their doors, or sell their business and happily pocket our money. Enough is enough.

Fiscal restraint is desperately needed. Immediate action to cut taxes and lower the cost of living is the only cure for what ails Connecticut.

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